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An Introduction ...



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ALAMEDA-CONTRA COSTA HEALTH SYSTEMS AGENCY

Health Services Administration
Planning

General
Education
Cooperation
Costs

THE COMPLEX ENVIRONMENT

Alameda and Contra Costa Counties combined have a population of more than 1.7 million people. Though largely urban, both counties contain some suburban and rural residential areas. The counties include diverse ethnic and racial neighborhoods, all encountering different health problems which require widely diverse health services. Some communities of the health service area have an abundance of health facilities, while other areas, often those considered medically underserved, encounter a maldistribution of health care resource and little access to them. These problems within the Alameda-Contra Costa Health Systems Agency's environment require a strong commitment to citizen participation on health concerns and issues. This is important to assure that the Health Systems Agency's activities are responsive to the community's needs.



BACKGROUND

The President signed, on January 5, 1975, the National Health Planning and Resources Development Act of 1974. This Act established Health Systems Agencies (HSAs) in designated health service areas to achieve a more equal access to quality health care at a reasonable cost. Rather than provide services itself, the HSA coordinates planning for existing hospitals, medical clinics, health plans and future projects to insure that the community is better served and health status of all area residents is improved. Over 200 Health Systems Agencies have been designated nationwide, to meet the purposes of the Act and to establish a health care delivery system that will reflect the interests of government, consumer, provider and payor.

The Alameda-Contra Costa Health Systems Agency has been designated the Health Systems Agency (HSA) for California Health Service Area V, by the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, pursuant to Public Law 93-641. It is a public regional planning body, as defined under the law.

Mission and Purposes

The HSA has adopted the following statement of mission and purpose:

MISSION

To carry out health planning and resources development and implementation activities designed to promote the health status of the area population and influence the development of the health care system in the direction of efficiency, effectiveness, and equity of access and quality of service for all residents of Alameda and Contra Costa counties.

PURPOSES

1. To develop and maintain a broad based forum for community participation in the health planning *and* decision-making process.
2. To develop plans that address local area health goals and priorities as well as those included in state and national legislative mandates.
3. To use implementation strategies including review and resources development activities to influence health resources allocations consistent with the agency's mission and plans.
4. To develop and support an ongoing educational process aimed at enhancing the public's understanding of the diverse factors associated with health and the effective use of the area's available health care resources.
5. To consider and address the economic impact of health systems and health planning decisions and activities.

HSA FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Alameda-Contra Costa Health System Agency (HSA) is responsible for health planning and resource development which includes:

- *Collection and Analysis of Data*

The HSA is required to gather and analyze health data to document the health status of the population, the use of health care services in the area, the effects of health services on the health of the population and environmental and occupational exposure, which may affect immediate and long term health conditions.

- *Preparation of a Health Systems Plan (HSP) and Annual Implementation Plan (AIP)*

The HSA will develop a detailed statement of goals called a Health Systems Plan (HSP), utilizing health data that documents the communities health status and use of health care facilities. The Alameda-Contra Costa Health Systems Agency will also develop an Annual Implementation Plan (AIP), which is a short range one year document recommending actions necessary to meet the goal outlined in the Health Systems Plan. To achieve the goals of the HSP, the HSA will coordinate its activities and provide technical assistance to individuals and groups. Both plans will require citizen participation in their development and review process prior to their adoption by the Governing Body.

- *Project Review*

The Health Systems Agency has several types of project review responsibilities.

- *Certificate of Need Applications*

The HSA must review the appropriateness of existing health service provided by hospitals, nursing homes, and other health institutions with the area. Certain changes in these services and major capital expenditures will also be reviewed.

- *Use of Federal Funds*

The HSA will review and approve or disapprove applications for federal funds allocated under Public Health Services Acts and other specified federal health programs.

- *Facility Modernization, Construction and Conversion Projects*

Each year, the HSA will give recommendations to the State on projects to modernize, construct, or convert hospitals, nursing homes, and other health facilities.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The Alameda-Contra Costa Health Systems Agency was formed by a joint powers agreement between the boards of supervisors of Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. This HSA consists of a Governing Board, Governing Body, Subarea Councils and proposed Sub-subarea Advisory Councils.

The Governing Board consists of 11 members: 6 elected officials, 3 consumers, and 2 providers. The members are jointly appointed by the two county Board of Supervisors. The primary responsibility of the Governing Board is to appoint the Governing Body and Subarea Council members in accordance with a specified nomination and appointment process.

The Governing Body consists of 30 members: 17 consumers and 13 providers. The Governing Body has total responsibility for determining the major activities of the HSA, including development of Health Systems Plan, Annual Implementation Plan, Certificate of Need Review, and review of uses of federal funds. Emphasis has been made to insure that medically underserved consumers are represented on the Governing Body through an extensive outreach program. A majority of the Governing Body of the Agency are consumers, as required under Federal Law. In addition, the Governing Body is broadly representative of the social, linguistic, economic and racial characteristics of the two-county area.

Two county-wide Subarea Advisory Councils (SAC) currently exist with 40 members on one SAC and 39 members on the other. These Councils are primarily responsible for advising the Governing Body on community health needs and resources for their respective geographical areas, and they participate in the nominating process for membership on the Governing Body.

Sub-Subarea Advisory Councils are in the process of being developed in Alameda County with the intent of establishing a further mechanism to receive community input from smaller natural geographic areas within the county. In Contra Costa County functional based task forces are being developed to allow citizens to study critical health care issues in depth and make recommendations to the agency.

The HSA professional and support staff are responsible for technical assistance, staffing, gathering and analyzing data, financial management, health planning, resource development and community relations activities based upon direction from the Governing Body.

Committee Organizations

Interim committees have been formed for early developmental tasks to assist the Governing Body in functional work activities. Voting membership on Governing Body standing committees is currently restricted to Governing Body and Subarea Council members. However, the SAC's will be developing committees on health care needs which will include individuals from the community and Subarea Council members. All meetings are well publicized and opened to the general public. Also, task forces and ad hoc committees of the Governing Body will be developed and members of the general public will be encouraged to participate as members on both these and Subarea Council committees.

The Plan Development Committee

The prime responsibility of the Plan Development Committee is to oversee the development of the Health Systems Plan and Annual Implementation Plan.

The Review Committee

The Committee is responsible for developing review procedures and criteria for adoption by the full Governing Body. These procedures and criteria will be used by the Agency in reviewing Certificate of Need applications, proposed uses of federal funds and the appropriateness of existing health services.

The Education and Community Participation Committee

The Committee is responsible for developing and recommending to the Governing Body education and training programs to help volunteers, and the general community to further participate in the Agency's activities and understand P.L. 93-641. Public involvement in the Agency's missions and purposes is also a major responsibility of this committee.

The Legislative Committee

The Legislative Committee consists of members from the Governing Body and Subarea Councils. The committee is responsible for review and analysis of pending State and Federal legislation and subsequent regulations that affect the Health Systems Agency and recommend to the Governing Body various strategies associated with such legislation.

The Ad Hoc Committees

Ad Hoc Committees will be formed in various areas to provide technical assistance to the Health Systems Agency.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

The Alameda-Contra Costa Health Systems Agency requires broad community support from both consumer and provider representatives. Community participation and involvement is highly important if the Health Systems Agency is going to meet its missions and goals. The Alameda-Contra Costa Health Systems Agency needs your active participation and support if it is going to establish health plans that reflect the needs and concerns of most community residents. In addition, citizen participation is important for the selection of new members to the Agency's Governing Board, Governing Body and Subarea Council's organizations. We hope that you will stay informed on our activities.

JOSEPH BORT*Supervisor — Alameda County*

Oakland

JUNE BULMAN*Vice Mayor and City Councilwoman*

Concord

FRED COOPER*Supervisor — Alameda County*

Oakland

JOHN GEORGE*Supervisor — Alameda County*

Oakland

ERIC HASSELTINE*Supervisor — Contra Costa County*

Danville

LUMAN HUGHES, M.D. (P)*

Walnut Creek

LOVIE McINTOSH (C)*

Richmond

ROBERT MASON (P)

Moraga

ROBERT I. SCHRODER*Supervisor — Contra Costa County*

Walnut Creek

WILLIE MAE THOMPSON (C)

Oakland

WILLIAM R. ZION (C)

Lafayette

Providers:**ACTON BARNES (P)**

Oakland

RAMONA DAVIS, M.D. (P)

Oakland

JOSEPH HIRSCH, O.D. (P)

Danville

MARIAN HOLDEN (P)

Danville

LUMAN HUGHES, M.D. (P)

Walnut Creek

LURA HUMBLE (P)

Berkeley

ELLEN McGRATH (P)

San Leandro

SUNNE WRIGHT McPEAK (P)

Pleasant Hill

CLARENCE NIXON (P)

Martinez

MILDRED OSTROV (P)

Richmond

LOREN RICE (P)

Walnut Creek

CLAUDE VAN MARGER (P)

Concord

MARTHA ZARAGOZA (P)

Fremont

Consumers:**FRED COOPER, Supervisor (C)**

Oakland

KENNETH CROSWELL (C)

Livermore

JOSE DE ANDA (C)

Union City

ETHEL DOTSON (C)

Richmond

BETTY FONG (C)

El Cerrito

ERIC HASSELTINE, Supervisor (C)

Danville

ARTURO MALTOS (C)

Berkeley

IRIS MITGANG (C)

Orinda

DOROTHY PAYNES (C)

Oakland

WILSON RILES Jr. (C)

Oakland

STANLEY ROWLAND (C)

Oakland

BENJAMIN RUSSELL (C)

Concord

WILLIE MAE THOMPSON (C)

Oakland

DOROTHY WILLIAMS (C)

Oakland

WOODIE WILLIAMS (C)

Pittsburg

HIRAM WOLCH, Ph.D. (C)

Castro Valley

WILLIAM ZION (C)

Lafayette

**Map of California
Health Service Area V.**

*(P) — Provider Representative

*(C) — Consumer Representative

Please fill out the attached form if you are interested in participating in the Alameda-Contra Costa Health Systems Agency.

APPLICATION

I want to be included. Here is my request for information on the Alameda-Contra Costa Health Systems Agency.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Phone: _____

Primary Occupation: _____

If you are interested in participating on Subarea Council Activities, please check here ().

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